

XIV. PARTICIPATION IN ASSESSMENTS

It is the policy of the State of Iowa that all students with disabilities will be included in state and district assessments, with appropriate accommodations and modifications in administration as needed.

The Iowa Department of Education has developed procedures for determining whether children with disabilities will participate in typical state and district assessments with or without accommodations and modifications, or whether a child with a disability will participate in an alternate assessment. These procedures have been disseminated to the area education agencies and local school districts through guidance documents and training. The procedures are to be used by IEP teams. The procedures to be followed during the IEP meeting are:

1. Determine which of the following statement best describes the student's curriculum and then determine the appropriate assessment approach.
 - a. Does the student participate with no or only slight modification in general academic curriculum? The student should participate in district wide assessment.
 - b. Does the student participate with significant modification to the general academic curriculum? The student should participate in district wide assessment
 - c. Does the student not participate in the general academic curriculum? Student receives an alternative curriculum. The student should participate in alternate assessment.

The Iowa Department of Education will have an alternate assessment developed and implemented beginning not later than July 1, 2000.

The Iowa Department of Education, in conjunction with area education agencies (AEAs), will collect statewide data reflecting the percent of students with disabilities participating in each type of assessment.

The State of Iowa, local education agencies (LEAs) and AEAs will make available to the public, and report to the public with the same frequency and in the same detail as it reports on the assessment of nondisabled children in accordance with the state's general accreditation standards, the following information:

1. The number of children with disabilities participating:
 - i. in regular assessments; and
 - ii. in alternate assessments.
2. The performance results of the children with disabilities if doing so would be statistically sound and would not result in the disclosure of performance results identifiable to individual children:
 - i. on regular assessments; and
 - ii. on alternate assessments (not later than July 1, 2000).

As required in Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 12, all public and accredited nonpublic schools shall report annually to the Department of Education. The reports to the public will include:

1. Aggregated data that include the performance of children with disabilities together with all other children; and
2. Disaggregated data on the performance of children with disabilities.

LEAs are not required to report to the public disaggregated data if the group is less than 10 children.

The data reported to the public by the state will be in Iowa's annual Condition of Education report. The report is published in the fall of each school year. AEAs and LEAs will report to the public as outlined in Iowa's general accreditation standards.

Legal References

Federal Requirements

20 USC 1412(a)(17).....Participation in Assessments
34 CFR 300.138.....Participation in assessments
34 CFR 300.139.....Reports relating to assessments

Iowa Requirements

Iowa Code 256.7 Duties of State Board
Iowa Administrative Code - Chapter 12 General Accreditation Standards
Iowa Administrative Rules of Special Education
 281-12.8(256) - Accountability for student achievement
 281-12.8(3) - Annual reporting requirements
 281-41.18 - Responsibilities of AEAs